



## Rhode Island CWD Surveillance 2005

### INTRODUCTION:

In response to the CWD outbreak in cervids, Rhode Island received a grant from the USDA for surveillance, testing and dissemination of information. Rhode Island has joined with the neighboring states of Connecticut and Massachusetts to form a Tri-State Region for CWD surveillance. However, recent outbreaks in New York and West Virginia have exacerbated the need to increase our early detection surveillance.

### OUR GOAL:

To obtain **180** deer heads from all counties of Rhode Island to test for CWD.

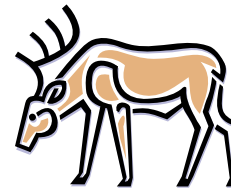
To obtain samples from targeted samples to include all "sick" deer or those adjacent to deer farms and road kills. **Sick deer & locations must be reported to DEM's Dispatch at 222-3070.**

### HOW WE GET OUR SAMPLES:

- Heads from yearlings and older deer, will be collected from each county to obtain the required samples. No fawns.
- Most heads will be collected at state and vendor operated deer check stations.
- Samples also will be collected from butchers throughout the region during the fall deer hunting seasons
- At all sites, deer heads will be removed, labeled and transported to each state's respective field headquarters

**COUNTY BEAKDOWN:** What we need from each county:

<b>Providence</b>	<b>53 heads</b>
<b>Kent</b>	<b>25 heads</b>
<b>Washington</b>	<b>63 heads</b>
<b>Newport/Bristol</b>	<b>12 heads</b>
<b>Prudence Island</b>	<b>15heads</b>
<b>Block Island</b>	<b>12heads</b>



**Table 1** Sampling framework for **Rhode Island** region of Southern New England based on distribution of deer population by county/islands, 2005.

County	Percent of Population	Samples Needed <i>Quota plus buffer</i>
1. Providence	27.7	56
2. Kent	12.3	27
3. Washington	36.6	66
4. Newport	6.1	13
5. Prudence Island	6.8	16
6. Block Island	8.8	13
Total	100	191

- Hunters submitting deer heads for testing **must** supply the following information: Hunter Name, address, phone number, location of harvest, and date. Additional information will be obtained to include, age, and sex.
- Hunters will be notified by mail of the test results. Lab results are expected to take 3-4 months. RI DEM is **not** advising hunters to wait for test results prior to consuming deer.
- For more information, see "Questions & Answers on CWD for Hunters" & "CWD: Precautions in RI "(a summary of the regulations), available at Fish & Wildlife offices and online at [www.dem.ri.gov](http://www.dem.ri.gov) or [www.cwd-info.org](http://www.cwd-info.org)